



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
MAINE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES
16 EDISON DRIVE
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04330



J. KING, JR.
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL F. KELLY
COMMISSIONER

JAY BRADSHAW
DIRECTOR

Board of EMS Meeting
Maine EMS Conference Room
March 6, 2002

MINUTES

Members Present: Leo Bouchard (Chair), Carol Pillsbury (Chair-elect), Sue Young, Oden Cassidy, Penelope Stevens, Peter DiPietrantonio, Jim McKenney, Wayne Werts, Richard Doughty, Paul Knowlton, Kevin Kendall, Robert Ashby, Charles Little, Bill Dunwoody, Alan Azzara

Regional Coordinators: Joanne LeBrun, Rick Petrie

Staff: Dawn Kinney, Drexell White, Jay Bradshaw, Laura Yustak Smith, Esq. (AAG)

Guest: Chief Jeff Cammack, Bangor Fire Department

1. Introductions

Chief Cammack introduced himself and was welcomed to the meeting.

2. Approval of January 2, 2002, meeting minutes.

The minutes mailed with the Board packet were corrected to reflect the correct meeting date and to record Oden Cassidy as present.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of January 2, 2002, as amended. (McKenney; second by DiPietrantonio). Unanimous.

3. Old Business

None at this time

4. New Business

a. Investigations Committee

MOTION: To ratify the minutes of the January 2, and February 6, 2002 Investigations Committee meetings as distributed, (Doughty; second by Cassidy). Unanimous.

MOTION: To accept the voluntary surrender of the Windsor Ambulance Service which ceased operations last month. (McKenney; second by Pillsbury). Unanimous

The Board reviewed the First Responder license application of Mr. Ryder who has several prior criminal convictions.

MOTION: That the Board finds that the practice of EMS patient care is dependent upon the trust placed in the EMS provider by the patient, the patient's family, co-workers and the public; that there exists certain conduct by an individual that, in addition to being dangerous and injurious to the public, irreparably abrogates that trust, evidences a lack of fitness to discharge the duty owed by the EMS provider to the client, patient, the patient's family, co-workers and the public, and represents an unacceptable risk to those vulnerable persons who may be in need of emergency medical services and to the emergency medical services system; that conduct involving sexual assaults, unlawful sexual contact, as defined by Maine statute, and inappropriate sexual behavior with minors violates Maine EMS rules and is precisely the type of conduct that abrogates trust, demonstrates unfitness to practice and presents unacceptable risk; that applicant George Ryder did engage in conduct with a 12 year old female that constituted unlawful sexual contact as defined by Maine statute, and inappropriate sexual behavior, said conduct occurring before and after the 12 year old female became his step-daughter; that the Board does not ratify the February 6, 2002 recommendation of the Investigations Committee regarding Mr. Ryder's application for EMS licensure; and, that the Board denies Mr. Ryder's application for EMS licensure based upon the aforementioned findings and as provided for in §§ 11.A.5 and 11.A.7(a) of the Maine EMS Rules (dated July 1, 2000). Carried 9/4 (Doughty, Young, Azzara, Little)

b. Operations Team Action Items

The Operations Team met March 5, 2002, but does not have any items that require Board action at this time.

c. Rules Revision Committee

Bill Dunwoody reported that the Committee held two full day meetings focusing on the air ambulance section. These meetings were well attended and prompted lively discussion. The Committee will now move in to sections 11 & 12 at its next meeting on March 20, 2002. The Committee's goal is to have a draft ready for Board review in May or June.

d. MEMS Functional Position Description

Drexell reviewed the updated version of the Functional Position Description that has been updated to reflect changes in the EMS Law.

MOTION: To approve the revised version of the MEMS Functional Position Description as distributed. (Little; second by Dunwoody). Unanimous.

e. Annual EMS Awards

Jay reported that the nominations forms for EMS Awards is being distributed and is also available from the MEMS web site. The deadline for nominations is April 15, 2002, and presentations will be made during EMS Week (May 19-25).

The Awards Committee will be staffed by Dawn Kinney, Dan Bahr will represent regional coordinators. Board members will be Sue Young, Oden Cassidy, and Robert Ashby.

f. Maine Fire Chiefs Representation on the Board of EMS

Chief Cammack reported on a request from the Maine Fire Chiefs Association that the Board consider supporting legislation that would add a seat specifically identified as being for a representative of MFCA. Jay reviewed the history of the Board composition, including the legislative process that expanded the Board in 1997 to add a hospital and fire service representative, and a second member of the public.

There was concern expressed by the Board that this additional seat was unnecessary as the fire service representative, Wayne Werts, is a fire chief (Auburn) and a member of MFCA. Chief Cammack stated that while there have not been any issues of late that have caused concern to MFCA, and that the Chiefs Association appreciates that Chief Werts is an active Board member, they are concerned that in the future, the fire services seat could be filled by a non-chief, and that such a change would hamper the ability of the MFCA to be involved in the EMS Board.

MOTION: To support the current composition of the Board and to welcome input from the MFCA both at the meetings and through Chief Werts. (Little; second by Pillsbury) 12/0/1 (Werts).

g. 12 Hour Firefighter/EMS Program.

Richard Doughty expressed concern that some fire departments have gone beyond the intent of the FF/EMS program and are using this as a means to avoid the training and licensing process required for EMS response. Drexell read from the Board minutes of October 3, 1990, which clarified that the original intent of having this program available was not to circumvent the EMS training and licensing system, but to permit appropriately trained firefighters to provide treatment in CPR, oxygen during CPR, and hemorrhage control in those cases where an ambulance would be delayed.

The Board requested that MEMS remind services of the limitations of the 12 hour program and the value of First Responder training for those in positions where they will be routinely responding to medical emergencies. The Board also asked that the Rules Revision Committee review this issue, and that regional quality assurance programs be involved when specific problems are encountered.

h. Cancellation of EMS by non-EMS personnel

Richard Doughty expressed concern that on a regular basis, EMS is being cancelled by non-EMS personnel (primarily fire and law enforcement). During the discussion, it does not appear that this is a statewide issue as many present reported having good working relationships with local fire and law enforcement officers.

MOTION: To direct staff to follow up on the cancellation of EMS by non-EMS personnel and to discuss how best to proceed with MSP and other groups so that this can be handled in a manner that does not negatively affect the good working relationship that many departments currently enjoy. (Dunwoody; second by McKenney) Unanimous.

- i. Code 3 transport for non-emergency patients

Richard Doughty reported that he has observed ambulances operating in emergency mode at times when it was either unnecessary or unwarranted (due to patient status or road conditions).

Consensus of the Board was that staff should review the data with regard to code 3 (red lights and sirens) response and suggest that regional quality assurance programs study response mode. Rick Petrie also offered to write an article for the Journal of Maine EMS about appropriate emergency response.

- j. Other

None at this time

5. Staff Reports

- a. Office

Jay reported that MEMS has received notice that our application for Year 3 of the EMSC Partnership Grant was accepted and we were awarded \$100,000. In addition to continuing the Youth Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper Training, funding will be provided to establish regional EMSC coordinators and promote EMSC activities within the region(s). Funding will also be available to assist with PEPP training and other programs relating to youth safety and injury treatments. Dwight Corning has also been officially identified by EMSC as the contact for this grant and he is working with the EMSC Committee on these and other projects.

On February 26, 2002, MEMS and MEMA sponsored a terrorism/disaster planning conference at the Augusta Civic Center. 215 people attended the program and the evaluations indicated that most attendees thought the program was worthwhile.

MEMS continues to be actively involved in the many different terrorism related events taking place. Later this month, Jay will be meeting with the senior management team with the Bureau of Health (BoH) and providing information about the various roles that EMS has at the state, regional, and local levels. BoH will be eligible for ~\$17 million in federal grants over the next 12-18 months. At the same time funding is continuing from FEMA (through Maine EMA) and the Governor is supporting a \$10 million bond question. MEMS will be working with all of these sources to make sure that the needs of the EMS system are kept on the table for funding opportunities.

Work is underway for a major upgrade to the computer software MEMS uses to store licensing information and process applications. The current software was written in 1987 and is overdue for an upgrade. This process is anticipated to take 6-12 months.

Missing written examinations have been experienced in Kennebec Valley and Aroostook County. Drexell is working with the regional offices, the National Registry, and local law enforcement. The Exam Committee will be discussing the impact of this breach of security at its next meeting.

b. MDPB

Jay reported that the MDPB did not meet in February, but will be meeting on March 20. Agenda items include: Spinal Assessment training program, LifeFlight of Maine launch protocol, a protocol for basic EMTs to administer Epinephrine via autoinjectors to school age patients, and a presentation by SMEMS on the results of their study about the Enhanced EMT-I program and ALS backup.

6. Other

None at this time

Meeting adjourned at 11:35.